

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



homemakers' chat

FOR USE IN NON-COMMERCIAL BROADCASTS ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Friday, January 8, 1943

SUBJECT: "CAMOUFLAGE MENDING." Information from home economists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Free publication: "The ABC's of Mending," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1925. Order from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

—ooOoo—

A stitch in time saves nine. But the right kind of stitch in the right place can do better than that. The right kind of stitch can save a coat...a suit...a dress. In wartime, mending is often better than making...patching is patriotic...and a darn may save the day. For in wartime the workers and the machines that make cloth and clothes are busy outfitting the armed forces. So goods and garments for civilians are fewer. Some of the clothes you now have hanging up at home may be more valuable than you realize. You may not be able to replace some of them for the duration. But if you are skillful with needle and thread, and if you know the secrets of mending, you can keep the family's clothes lasting and looking well.

Today let's talk especially about mending wool clothes, because wool is especially valuable in wartime winter. Let's talk about camouflage mending...mending that doesn't show...that no one would ever know.

The first secret is about where to patch and where to darn. Patching is usually best for a large hole, darning for a small hole, a snag or a worn place.

Now for some patching secrets. Cut the patch on the straight of the goods. Sew the patch on so that its crosswise yarns meet the crosswise yarns in the garment, and so that its lengthwise yarns meet lengthwise yarns. This makes the weave of the material run straight through from patch to garment, disguising the patch. If the material has a design--stripes, dots or figures--the design, too, must match exactly to hide the patch. Patch a faded garment with a faded

piece. Often a hem or a pocket can supply a piece that will match in color.

Now about darning. Darns do especially well on wool...on the small holes, tears and worn spots. If possible darn with thread raveled from the material the garment was made from. Here's a secret about darning with raveled threads that means a lot to the looks and strength of the darn. Use lengthwise yarns for darning up and down, and use crosswise yarns for darning back and forth. The inside of the hem of the dress can supply crosswise yarns. The inside of up-and-down seams can supply lengthwise yarns. When you can't get enough yarn by raveling, darn with a dull-finish thread that blends closely with the material. Avoid using silk for darning because silk is shiny and shows. A slightly darker shade of thread often shows up less than thread that seems an exact match on the spool.

Darn with a short thread, because you have to pull a long thread back and forth across the hole and that stretches the darn out of place. As for the needle, have it fine to save pulling and stretching. Study the weave of the fabric, and make your darn as much like that weaving as possible. Sit by a strong clear light to work. Some expert darners work under a magnifying glass.

Darning is really just weaving by hand. So in darning work for flatness. If you pull threads too tight, the darn puckers. And if your stitches are too loose, the darn looks puffy. Darn on the right side of the material so you can see how it looks as you work. Draw your darning threads right into the yarns of the cloth, rather than between them. Take tiny stitches. Go easy on the turns. Then, around the edge, run stitches unevenly into the cloth so you leave no definite line to show where the darn begins. All raw edges of the hole should be on the underside of the garment. And cut off the ends of threads on the underside, too.

No darn looks its best until it is pressed. Steam-press the darn on the wrong side. Then brush the right side lightly to fluff up the nap of the material.

Different kinds of holes on wool call for different kinds of mends. For most small holes--moth holes, little cuts, snaggs and such--use a plain-weave hand darn. For a large tear mend with a patch that is darned-in by hand, or set in by machine-stitching or hand-stitching. The darned-in patch looks best on thick wool. The set-in patch looks best on thin wool.

Here's how to make a darned-in patch: Trim the hole so that it is square or oblong. Then cut a patch that exactly fits the hole and matches the pattern and weave of the cloth. Paste the patch onto a piece of net. Then fit the patch in the hole and baste the net on around the edges of the hole. Now with dull matching thread, darn back and forth around the four sides of the patch. Let the darning overlap at the corners to give strength.

Sweaters, socks, mittens and other knit wool garments you can mend with a knit-stitch that looks like the original knitting, if you have matching wool. A hole too large to bring the knitting back you can mend with a blanket-stitch which is strong but has no "give".

Pictures are a help in learning the secrets of mending. And the new free bulletin on mending has pictures to illustrate all the mends discussed today and more, too. Send a postcard for Farmers' Bulletin No. 1925 called "ABC's of Mending." Address the postcard to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The bulletin is free while the free supply lasts.

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ JUN 20 1943 ★
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE